



Design - a - Fort



Activity Plan

Overview: Fortifications are the result of adaptations over centuries of use. When military technology changed, such as the invention of the cannon, fortifications adapted. During the Civil War military technology changed drastically. Shell guns and rifled cannon made brick fortifications obsolete. Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter's earthwork structure represents the fortifications which were used until World War II.

Grades: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th -12th

Time: 45 minutes to 1 hour

Learning Objectives

- Younger students will be able to classify fortifications by shapes.
- Older students will be able to describe fortification adaptations and how these adaptations worked in differing geographic areas.

Educational Standards

From the South Carolina Curriculum and Standards available online at

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cso/standards/ss/> &
http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cso/standards/vpa/documents/vpa_standards.pdf

Social Studies

3-3.2, 3-4.4, 4-3.4, 4-6.3, 4-6.4, 5-3.6, 5-4.4, 8-1.7, 8-2.2, 8-2.3, 8-3.5, 8-6.2, USHC-4.3

Visual Art

3-12 I.A, 3-12 I.C, 3-12 II.B, 3-12 III.A, 3-12 VI.B, 9-12 IV.A

Materials

- Five cards from the masters provided.
- Art materials and paper.

Note: shape and materials are the only cards needed for younger students.

Preparation for Activity

- Make cards from master provided.

Steps of the Activity

Step 1 –Divide the cards into 5 groups of 4 cards each. Pass one complete set of cards to group of students. There may be 5 groups, with four to six students in each group. If the class is larger make additional sets of cards.

Step 2 – Have the students design a fortification from the cards. Each group should create a drawing or model of their structure.

Step 3 - Have each group report to the class about their "fort" and how they think it could survive the type of attack on the card.

Older students can challenge each other by one side designing a fort, the other, designing ways to destroy the fort. The purpose cards could be used to set up the opposing forces scenario

Questions to Ponder:

1. What advantages did earthworks have over brick, concrete or timber?
2. What major military technological changes occurred during World War I that caused the end of trench warfare?

Design-a-Fort Cards

Material

BRICK	TIMBER	SOIL
TIMBER & SOIL	CONCRETE	FREE CHOICE

Terrain

OPEN FIELD	FOREST	SWAMP
HILLS	RIVER BOTTOM	FREE CHOICE

Shape

CIRCLE	REDOUBT 4 sided	REDAN 3 sided
LUNETTE crescent	FREE STYLE	

Obstacles

ABATIS	RIFLE PITS	CANNON
PARAPET	MINES	FREE CHOICE

Purpose

Survive Infantry Attack

Survive Cavalry Attack

Survive Naval Bombardment

Survive Artillery Shelling

Survive a Siege